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## INTRODUCING NEWARK SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BESSIE WALKER

An energetic and optimistic spokesperson for the City of Newark, Bessie L. Walker, is the fourth oldest of twelve children born to Johnnie and Fannie Walker.

Upon relocating to Newark from Tallahassee, Florida, Ms. Walker attended Harriet Tubman and Abington Avenue Elementary Schools and afterwards graduated from West Side High School. She later earned an Associate Degree from Essex County College and advanced to the campus of Kean College.

Ms. Walker's interest in sports, coupled with her organizational skills, has been the hallmark of her distinguished career of twenty years with the Newark Board of Education, having devoted the entire time to the office of Physical Education and Extra Curricular Activities.

The following are some highlights of her accomplishments:

- \* Formation of the Elementary Basketball Program for boys and girls up to age 15, which now has 65 teams participating
- \* Assisting with the formation of teams in the Small Fry Basketball Program
- \* The introduction of volleyball into the sports program within the District
- \* The re-institution of swimming, bowling and wrestling into extra-curricular programming
- \* Organized and manages the Annual Golf Scholarship Tournament for the Newark School District
- \* Organized and supervises the Adult Co-Ed Basketball Program which has been successfully functioning for the past eight years and continues to expand with heightened interest and enthusiasm.
- \* Coordinates the Annual Elementary and High School Newark Board of Education/NJ Nets Summer Basketball Camp
- Organized the Annual High School and Elementary Football Camp

Hands-on assistance to numerous community based programs such as:

- \* The Central Ward People's Annual Picnic
- \* The Pop Warner Football League
- \* Presenting YM-YWCA classes on fitness and aerobics for young adults
- \* The South Ward Little League
- \* Promoting the annual Pride Bowl Football Game
- \* Volunteers for The Black United Fund

Other areas of community participation are as follows:

- \* President, George Branch Civic Association
- \* Vice Chairperson, Democratic Party, Newark Central Ward
- \* Member, Bethany Baptist Church
- \* Coordinator, Central Ward Feeding and Toy Drive for the Homeless

Ms. Walker enjoys immense popularity among peers and colleagues, as well as from all of the young people to whom she unselfishly devotes many hours of donated time and dynamic involvement. Small wonder therefore, that we take great pride in recognizing and paying well-deserved tribute to "Madame Commissioner", as she is sometimes affectionately called in local sports circles. Bessie is a splendid humanitarian, as well as a tireless and dedicated individual, who derives great joy in improving the well-being of all others, both the well known and ordinary people with whom she comes in contact.

Awards:

- \* 1991 Sports Woman of the Year
- \* 1992 Woman of the Year - Grace Reformed Church
- \* 1993 Nominee - Newark Athletic Hall of Fame

THE  
CENTRAL WARD'S CHOICE



CENTRAL WARD  
COUNCILMAN  
GEORGE BRANCH

CANDIDATE  
BESSIE WALKER

*The People of our City  
need Councilmembers  
who will represent their  
interests, high taxes and  
outrageous water bills are  
not what I support.  
Quality education, police  
protection and safe and  
clean neighborhoods,  
senior services and  
development of jobs for  
our residents are a few of  
the issues I stand for.*

*Bessie Walker*

**VOTE  
11-E**

**BESSIE  
WALKER**

**COUNCILWOMAN-AT-LARGE**

**"INTEGRITY & EXPERIENCE"**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1995**

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT BESSIE WALKER

## INTRODUCING NEWARK SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BESSIE WALKER

I have chosen to become a candidate for the Newark Board of Education because of my sincere commitment and desire to help enhance, expand, elevate and improve the education, athletic and recreation programs in our district on behalf of the youth.

There are changes that must be made to improve the educational system. Foremost among them is the all important need for more parental and community participation in our schools. In addition I feel a strong emphasis should be on more vocational training. Presently there is a extensive interest in college preparatory encouragement but there also needs to be recognized that a sizeable number of youth will not go on to attend college. Nevertheless, our students must be given the chance to acquire the technical skills (electrician, carpenter, baker, etc.) that will enable them to earn a decent and honest livelihood.

This is important because the qualifications to meet he needs of the new technology become more intricate and expansive each year. This means that there is a need for parents, and teachers, to become involved in retraining in order to maintain their ability to provide up to date guidance to children for whom they are responsible. Such interest and upgrading of skills could also be helpful toward reducing the drop-out and crime rate in our schools and community.

I feel very strong on the subject of accountability. The term accountability applies to all: policy makers, administrators, teachers, the non-instructional support staff and community. It is the duty of all to assist in the education of our youth.

Accountability is also portrayed in the advancement of students. It is the advancement of students. It is important to use innovative motivational techniques that will cause students to want to learn. I think that educators must require accountability on the part of each student entrusted to them. This accountability will be reflected in the students' test scores, behavior, ability to work with and compete with their peers, and prepare them for advancement to the next level of learning.

The all important key to accountability is to promote parental inclusion in the academic development of their children. This is an essential component of the education process. The partnership between parent and teacher is a key factor toward advancing the best interest of the educational objective.

The administration, support staff, parents, citizens and the corporate community must begin to put kids first and have high expectations on their level of achievement. Newark, like any number of other urban cities, has such disabilities as inadequate housing, high unemployment, under employment, insufficient access to health care, unacceptable levels of drug abuse, and a host of other factors that impede access to a desirable quality of life.

However, as a resident who has acquired all of my education in Newark public schools and New Jersey State institutions of higher learning I can serve as an example that educational achievement is possible, notwithstanding the existence of the societal inadequacies that have been cited.

The exciting recognition that has been given to numerous schools within our system is a testimony of what can be done when each and everyone performs their mission with dedication and enthusiasm.

Accordingly, as a professional educator with nearly two decades of service, I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the Board of Education and look forward with confidence and great expectation toward being selected for this important position. We must all keep our eye on the prize, which is our children.

BESSIE WALKER  
"SHE WILL PUT PEOPLE FIRST"

Bessie Walker has pledged that when elected to the Newark Municipal Council she will honor her commitment "To Put People First".

Ms. Walker a long time resident of Newark, attended the public schools and devoted tireless, countless hours of public service to the citizens of this city.

Ms. Walker's active community involvement consist of the following:

Co-Founder of Project Pride  
Coordinator of Central Ward Senior Citizens Activities  
President of George Branch Civic Association  
Vice Chairperson of Central Ward Democratic Party  
Member of the Board of Directors - High Park Terrace Apartments  
Director of Community Action in the County of Essex  
Board Member of the Newark Board of Education

She is also organizer of the following activities:

Annual Christmas Feeding of the Homeless  
Board of Education's Annual Golf Scholarship  
Tournament  
Board of Education's Annual Boys and Girls Academic  
Camp

Empowering people to enhance their quality of life and crime reduction are two of Ms. Walker's top priorities. Immediately upon becoming Councilperson-at-Large, she pledged to support a plan in the Council to establish a Safe Streets Commission. She envisions that the commission's members will be selected from and be representative of the city's various neighborhood watch programs, churches, businesses, law enforcement departments, educational institutions, citizens and community based agencies. Part of the Commission's mission will be to recommend legislative actions that will foster a safe environment for all of Newark's Citizens. She supports the principle of working together to make all neighborhoods safe.

Another objective will be to recommend ways of reducing crime through innovative employment programs, including transportation to suburban job sites, drug abuse prevention programs and re-introduction of Pretrial

intervention programs at the local level. While she is a strong advocate on punishing those who commit crimes, she also supports alternative sentencing plans that focus on job training rather than wholesale imprisonment that emphasizes punishment.

Job development for Newark residents will empower them while helping to reduce crime in the city. As Councilperson-at-Large, Ms. Walker support the development of partnerships between educational institutions and business/corporate communities that will bring jobs into Newark's neighborhoods and help train citizens for these jobs. A safe and secure environment will attract investors to the city and create more jobs for its residents. These initiatives will significantly lower Newark's unemployment and crime rates.

Home ownership is a part of the American dream that has been denied too many of Newark's citizens for too long. To help make this possible, Ms. Walker will advocate for the introduction of homestead agreements, low down payment mortgages and more public and private partnership initiatives that will enable citizens to realize their dreams of owning their own homes. Ms. Walker says that she is totally committed to home ownership for the residents.

As vacant lots are transformed into businesses and owner occupied housing, Newark's tax ratable will increase. This will help to stabilize the tax base and allow the city to offer expanded essential services that are desperately needed.

On May 10th vote for leadership that will energize and continue to revitalize our great city. 8-13